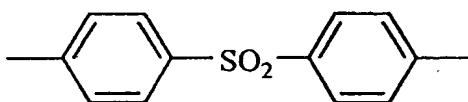


WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

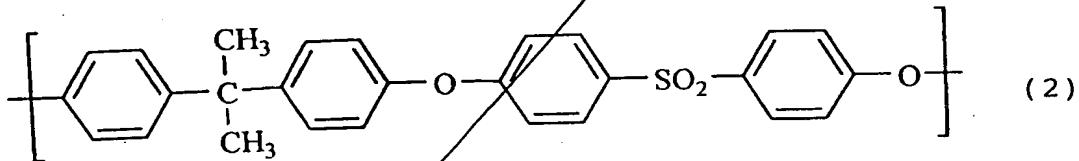
1. An endless belt for electrophotography which  
is obtainable continuously by melt extrusion from a  
circular die; the endless belt comprising a layer  
5 containing a thermoplastic resin having a diphenyl  
sulfone structure represented by the following Formula  
(1)



(1)

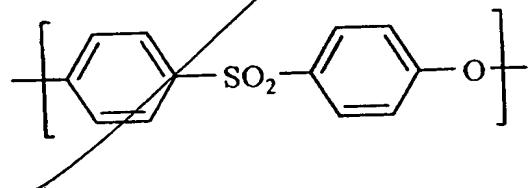
10

2. An endless belt according to claim 1, wherein  
said thermoplastic resin having a diphenyl sulfone  
structure is a thermoplastic resin having a structural  
15 unit represented by the following Formula (2) or (3)



(2)

20



(3)

3. An endless belt according to claim 1, which  
has a thickness of from 40  $\mu\text{m}$  to 300  $\mu\text{m}$ .

25

4. An endless belt according to claim 1, which  
has a thickness not larger than 1/3 of the slit width

of the circular die used.

5. An endless belt according to claim 1, which has a thickness not larger than 1/5 of the slit width of the circular die used.

10 6. An endless belt according to claim 1, which has an external diameter of from 50% to 400% of the external diameter of the die slit of the circular die used.

15 7. An endless belt according to claim 1, which has an external diameter of from more than 100% to 400% or less of the external diameter of the die slit of the circular die used.

20 8. An endless belt according to claim 1, which has an external diameter of from 105% to 400% of the external diameter of the die slit of the circular die used.

9. An endless belt according to claim 1, which has a resistance of from  $1 \times 10^0 \Omega$  to  $1 \times 10^{14} \Omega$ .

25 10. An endless belt according to claim 1, which has a surface-direction resistance whose maximum value is within 100 times the minimum value thereof.

*SWB  
P2  
CJC*

11. An endless belt according to claim 1, which has a thickness-direction resistance whose maximum value is within 100 times the minimum value thereof.

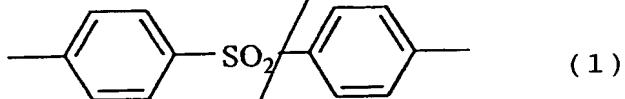
*Sub  
D*

5 12. An endless belt according to claim 1, which is an intermediate transfer belt.

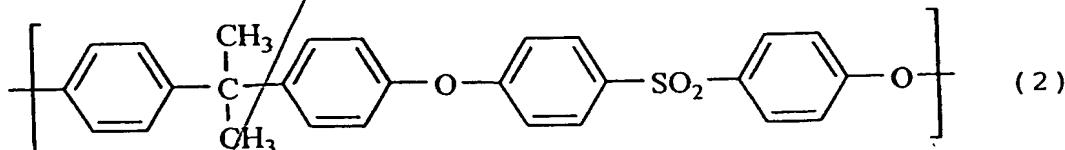
10 13. An endless belt according to claim 1, which is a transfer material carrying belt.

*Sub  
B2*

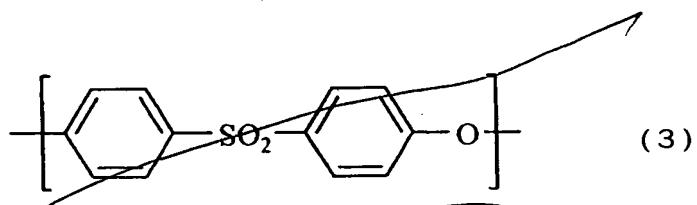
14. A process for producing an endless belt for electrophotography; the process comprising the step of melt-extruding a thermoplastic resin having a diphenyl sulfone structure represented by the following Formula (1), from a circular die to produce the endless belt continuously



20 15. A process according to claim 14, wherein said thermoplastic resin having a diphenyl sulfone structure is a thermoplastic resin having a structural unit represented by the following Formula (2) or (3)



Sub B  
B 2  
Cont'd



16. A process according to claim 14, wherein said  
5 endless belt has a thickness of from 40  $\mu\text{m}$  to 300  $\mu\text{m}$ .

17. A process according to claim 14, wherein said endless belt has a thickness not larger than 1/3 of the slit width of the circular die used.

10 18. A process according to claim 14, wherein said endless belt has a thickness not larger than 1/5 of the slit width of the circular die used.

15           19. A process according to claim 14, wherein said  
endless belt has an external diameter of from 50% to  
400% of the external diameter of the die slit of the  
circular die used.

20. A process according to claim 14, wherein said endless belt has an external diameter of from more than 100% to 400% or less of the external diameter of the die slit of the circular die used.

25 21. A process according to claim 14, wherein said  
endless belt has an external diameter of from 105% to  
400% of the external diameter of the die slit of the

circular die used.

22. A process according to claim 14, wherein said endless belt has a resistance of from  $1 \times 10^0 \Omega$  to  $1 \times 5 10^{14} \Omega$ .

23. A process according to claim 14, wherein said endless belt has a surface-direction resistance whose maximum value is within 100 times the minimum value thereof.

24. A process according to claim 14, wherein said endless belt has a thickness-direction resistance whose maximum value is within 100 times the minimum value thereof.

25. A process according to claim 14, wherein said endless belt is an intermediate transfer belt.

26. A process according to claim 14, wherein said endless belt is a transfer material carrying belt.

27. A process according to claim 14, wherein a gas is blown to the inside of a cylindrical film of the thermoplastic resin melt-extruded from the circular die, to make the endless belt have an external diameter larger than the external diameter of the die slit of

the circular die.

28. A process according to claim 14, wherein an extrusion material to be melt-extruded which contains 5 the thermoplastic resin having a diphenyl sulfone structure has a breaking extension of 2% or more.

29. A process according to claim 14, wherein an extrusion material to be melt-extruded which contains 10 the thermoplastic resin having a diphenyl sulfone structure has a tensile breaking strength of 40 MPa or above.

30. An image forming apparatus for 15 electrophotography comprising;  
an endless belt which is obtainable continuously by melt extrusion from a circular die;  
said endless belt comprising a layer containing a thermoplastic resin having a diphenyl sulfone structure 20 represented by the following Formula (1)

